

## Message Text

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ORIGIN HA-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00 L-03  
PA-01 ICA-11 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 IO-13 /081 R

DRAFTED BY HA/HR:RCOHEN:BJB  
APPROVED BY HA/HR:MLSCHNEIDER  
ARA/NBOUTON

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P R 281158Z AUG 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO PRIORITY  
INFO AMEMBASSY BERNE  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 217825

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: FRENCH AND SWISS PHYSICIANS TO VISIT URUGUAY  
TO INVESTIGATE STATUS OF IMPRISONED URUGUAYAN  
DOCTORS

1. THREE RESPECTED REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FRENCH MEDICAL  
COMMUNITY AND ONE SWISS PHYSICIAN WILL VISIT URUGUAY FOR  
TEN DAYS BEGINNING AUGUST 25, AND WILL STAY AT THE VICTORIA  
PLAZA HOTEL IN MONTEVIDEO. THEY PLAN TO INVESTIGATE THE  
STATUS OF IMPRISONED URUGUAYAN PHYSICIANS. A LIST OF MORE  
THAN 70 WAS PROVIDED TO THEM BY URUGUAYAN EXILES IN PARIS.  
THE DELEGATION WILL REQUEST PERMISSION FROM THE GOU TO VISIT  
THOSE IN JAIL. THE DELEGATION IS HEADED BY DR. BERNARD  
KOUCHNER, PAST PRESIDENT OF MEDICINES SANS FRONTIERES  
(PARIS) AND A MEMBER OF ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS. THE OTHER  
MEMBERS ARE DR. PATRICK AEERHARD, A SWISS CARDIOLOGIST  
ALSO REPRESENTING MEDICINES SANS FRONTIERES; DR. GUERIN,  
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REPRESENTING THE FRENCH ASSOCIATION OF CARDIOLOGISTS  
(APIC); AND DR. TOMKIEWITCH, A PSYCHIATRIST REPRESENTING  
THE FRENCH PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION.

2. THE GOVERNMENT OF FRANCE HAS ENCOURAGED THE MISSION  
AND HAS AUTHORIZED AIR FRANCE TO PROVIDE THEM WITH  
TRANSPORT.

3. THE GROUP HAS NOT INFORMED THE GOU OF THEIR INTENDED VISIT. THEY PLAN TO CONTACT THE US AMBASSADOR FOR ASSISTANCE IN MEETING WITH GOU OFFICIALS ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 29. THEY ARE SO PROCEEDING BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE THAT THE US AMBASSADOR WOULD BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE OFFICIAL IN MONTEVIDEO TO CONTACT. THEIR US REPRESENTATIVE WITH WHOM THEY HAVE SPOKEN ALSO HAS DISCUSSED THIS MATTER WITH ONE OF THE NAS REPRESENTATIVES WHO PREVIOUSLY VISITED URUGUAY ON HUMAN RIGHTS AUSPICES.

4. MEDICINES SANS FRONTIERES IS A PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS BASED IN PARIS WHOSE MAIN PURPOSE HAS BEEN TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. IT HAS A US SECTION WHICH CONTACTED DEPARTMENT. IT HAS BEEN ACTIVE OVER THE PAST SIX YEARS IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES, INCLUDING HONDURAS, GUATEMALA AND HAITI.

5. IF THESE PERSONS CONTACT THE EMBASSY, DEPARTMENT WOULD RECOMMEND THAT EMBASSY RECEIVE DELEGATION BUT LEAVES TO AMBASSADOR'S DISCRETION WHETHER TO EXTEND ASSISTANCE TO THE DELEGATION TO FACILITATE THE PURPOSE OF THEIR VISIT.

6. FOR PARIS AND BERNE: WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENT POSTS MAY WISH TO MAKE REGARDING PHYSICIANS INVOLVED. CHRISTOPHER  
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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** SHUM, AR  
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